

HO-383

MELVILLE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHAPEL

cira 1885

Elkridge

Private

A two story Gothic brick church, Melville Methodist Episcopal Church is characterized by two high pitched gabled wings which intersect to form an L plan. A tall square tower capped by a high pitched tent roof with a north entrance rises from this intersection. Built in 1885 it is characteristic of the Gothic revival in church architecture of that period. Fenestration and central entrances are characterized by the Gothic arch except for a large central Roman arched south window.

Melville's greatest significance, however, lies in its association with Francis Asbury, first Methodist Bishop of the United States of America, who preached here as a circuit-rider from 1772-1795.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: Melville Chapel				
AND/OR HISTORIC: United Methodist Church				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Furnace Road Avenue				
CITY OR TOWN: Elkridge				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Howard		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	OWNERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	PUBLIC ACQUISITION: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Melville Chapel, c/o J. Head				
STREET AND NUMBER: 6508 Harmon Avenue				
CITY OR TOWN: Elkridge		STATE: Maryland		21227
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Hall of Records				
STREET AND NUMBER: Howard County Court House				
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City		STATE: Maryland		21043
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): Tax Map 38, Blk 4				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Howard County Historic Sites Inventory				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1976 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust				
STREET AND NUMBER: 21 State Circle				
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis		STATE: Maryland		21401

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7. DESCRIPTION			
CONDITION	(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair
	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncolored	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE			
<p>Melville Methodist Episcopal Church is located on the south side of Furnace Road 1/16 mile West from RR Avenue.</p> <p>A two story Gothic brick church, Melville Methodist Episcopal Church is characterized by intersecting high pitched gables which form an L plan with a tall square tower capped by a steeply pitched tent roof rising from this intersection of its north and west wings. Gothic entrances and fenestration are another notable architectural feature.</p> <p>Laid in running bond brick it is three bays wide and four bays deep with a central double north door surmounted by a Gothic arched leaden glass transom encased in a wooden archivolt.</p> <p>A Gothic window lies east and west of the central entrance door with identical painted leaden glass lites and decorated with header brick sills encased by a header brick archivolt.</p> <p>Eight brick steps flanked by a brick wall lead to the red wooden double door. A thin decorative wooden beam separates the door from the transom which is inscribed "Melville M.E. Church". A small Gothic window encased by brick header archivolt is inset into the north wall above the central door. It has a projecting flat brick sill of headers. A cross defined by small ashlar stones is inset into the brick wall above this window.</p> <p>The east elevation of the north wing contains four first floor Gothic windows identical to those on the north elevation flanking the central entrance door. The Gothic windows are underscored by rectangular basement casement windows with three-three lites decorated by a vertical header brick course on each side.</p> <p>The south elevation of the north wing holds a full arched leaden glass window decorated by a header brick archivolt and a projecting header brick sill. It is surmounted by a small Gothic window set into the A of the roof line composed of nine lites and similar brick decoration. A basement window is located east and west of the central Roman arched window similar to those described.</p> <p>A two bay wide, two bay long west wing springs from the south half of the west wall of the nave. Its gabled roof runs east-west, intersecting with the roof of the nave which runs north-south.</p> <p>The west wing's west elevation contains two first floor Gothic windows lying side by side. They are double-hung holding five-over-four lites and accentuated by brick decoration similar to that found on windows in the north wing. A small Gothic window lies in the A formed by the gable roof line identical to that window found above the Roman arched south window of the nave.</p> <p>The south elevation of this west wing contains two double-hung Gothic windows holding five-over-four lites and accentuated by brick work similar to that found on the north wing. A one story wooden frame shed with flat roof lies south of the two windows.</p> <p>The north wall of the west wing contains a first floor Gothic window similar to those which flank the main entrance to the nave. A basement window similar to those on the east wall of the nave under lines this window.</p>			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(continued)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1885

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Melville Methodist Church is of national significance due to its history. Architecturally it is a modest representative of the Gothic revival which spread through America during the mid-1800's.

One of the earliest congregations in American Methodism, Melville is nationally significant for its role in the development of the church in America. In the journal of Francis Asbury, a Methodist circuit-rider, Melville is mentioned twice. A November 26, 1794 entry reads thus: "We had a comfortable love-feast, but we were prevented from attending our other meetings by excessive rains. The next day I came to Elk Ridge, where I saw, after twenty-two years labour, a well-designed frame of a new house for public worship." A November first, 1795 entry reads as follows: ". . . I left town and came to Elk-ridge, whence I found a little time for reflection and prayer. I preached and administered the sacrament on the Ridge. After twenty-three years preaching here we have a small society."

These entries establish the congregation in the year 1772, and the first building date as 1794. Twelve years before Asbury's ordination at the Christmas Conference at Lovely Lane Meeting House in Baltimore, he was ministering to the Society of Melville Chapel.

A second Methodist Chapel was located on what was later the bed of the B & O Railroad. Its church yard was at the present location of the cemetery of Grace Episcopal Church on ElkrIDGE Heights. In 1825 the chapel was removed up the hill when a right-of-way was sold to the railroad. It was probably used for the literary society and library until 1834, when on January 13 the trustees became incorporated by an Act of the Maryland General Assembly. On June 4th of that year, a part of the present tract of land was purchased for twenty dollars "lawful money" from John A. Ellicott, his wife, Mary S. and his nephew Andrew Ellicott, Jr. During that summer, the old brick church was built on the present site. An opening "Candlelight" service was held on Saturday, September 13, 1834 and the chapel dedicated on the following day.

The Reverend Jonathan Munroe, a circuit rider whose saddlebags are exhibited by the Methodist Historical Society in the First Church in Baltimore, was the pastor. The Trustees were Eliphalet Parson, John L. Moore, Stephan Bryan, Levin Mills, and William Earp.

In 1845 Grace Episcopal Church acquired this second frame chapel which was probably located near the Old Grace Parish House. On November 23, 1855 it burned. The brick chapel built on the present site lasted 51 years.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bicentennial Celebration Committee. Melville Chapel - United Methodist Church - Two Hundred Years of Methodism: 1772-1972. Elkridge, 1972.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"		
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"		
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"		
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

1.789 Acres

Please see Tax Map 38, Blk 4, P. 433 10/189

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Cleora Barnes Thompson		
ORGANIZATION Office of Planning and Zoning- Comprehensive Planning		DATE
STREET AND NUMBER: 3450 Court House Drive		
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City	STATE Maryland	21043

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

Melville Methodist Episcopal Church - Description (Continued)

A square brick chimney lies east of this window. A tall square tower capped by a high pitched tent roof with a north entrance rises from the intersection of the north and west wings. The north entrance door of this tower is similar to the entrance door of the north wing which leads into the nave. The word "Welcome" is inscribed on its leaden glass transom. Its north wall holds a small second floor Gothic window similar to that above the central nave entrance. Eight steps lead to the entrance door and are flanked on the west by a brick wall.

Gothic windows on the west wall of the tower and on the first north bay of the nave's west wall are identical to those located in the nave's east wall.

An ashlar corner stone located on the northwest corner foundation of the north wing has 1885 inscribed on its west face and Melville M.E. Church inscribed on its north corner.

Fir trees flank the main north entrance. An old graveyard is located south of the church.

Melville Methodist Episcopal Church - Significance (continued)

Built of soft bricks that absorbed moisture, it was not satisfactory and in 1885 it was replaced by the present structure.

Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church residing within 8 miles of Elkridge Landing were to attend Elkridge Chapel. By the Act of Incorporation of January 13, 1834, 5-13 "sober and discreet persons" were to be elected to act as trustees and "to manage the estate property interest and inheritance of the same in the most upright and careful manner and to have perpetual succession in law or act and name according to the provisions of the act of assembly aforesaid."

The origin of the name "Melville" is attributed to a Melville B. Cox, a Methodist circuit rider who was admired by the Elk-Ridge pastor, Jonathan Munroe. He came from Maine to ride the circuits in Maryland and preach the gospel in 1826 and 1827. In 1833 he left to go to Liberia and other parts of Africa as the first missionary from American Methodism.

Architecturally Melville Chapel is representative of the Gothic Revival which spread through America during the mid 1800's.

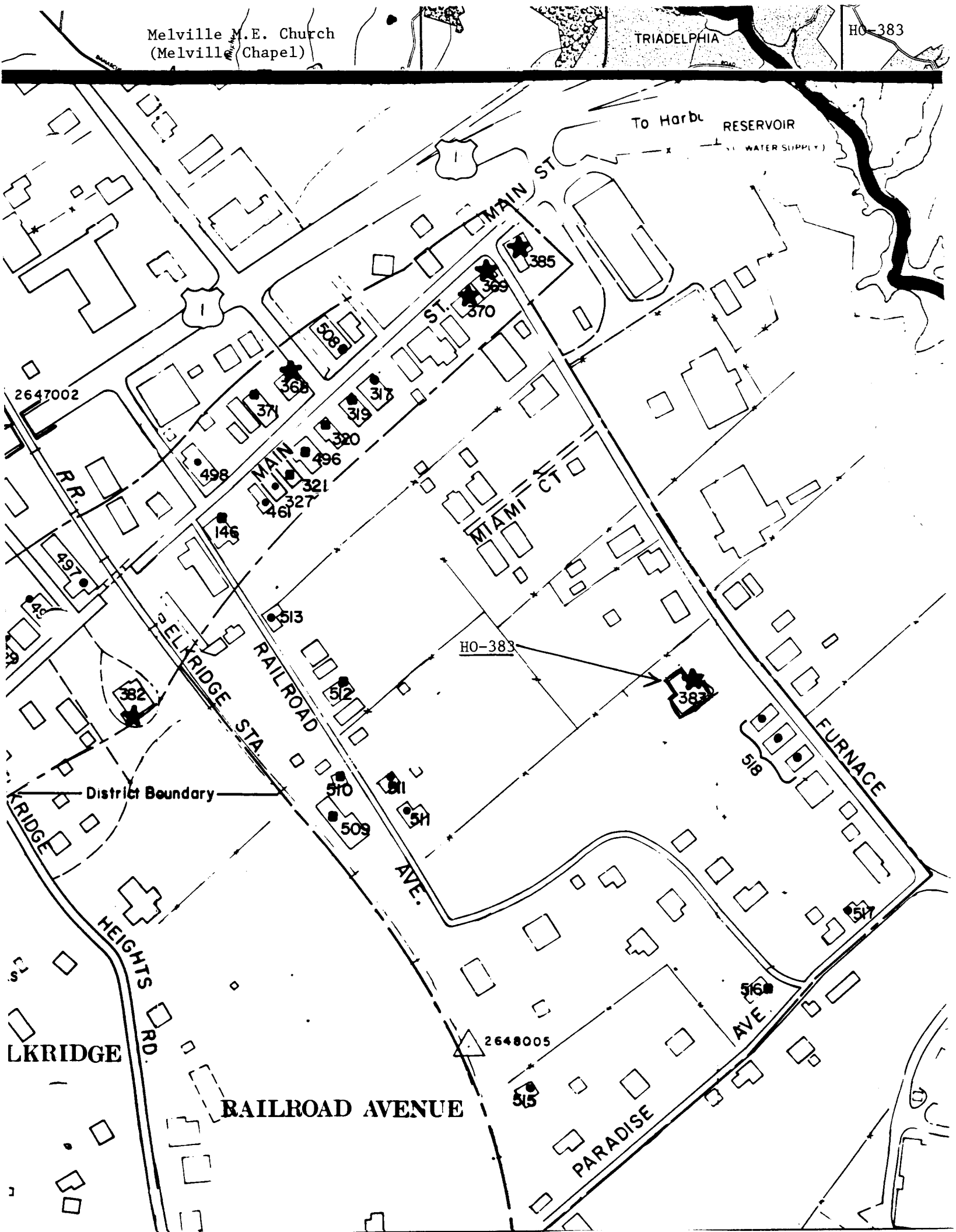
Its composition and scale are pleasing and its fenestration and main portals are characterized by the Gothic arch. The tall square tower rising from the intersecting high pitch gables lends a picturesque quality to the structure.

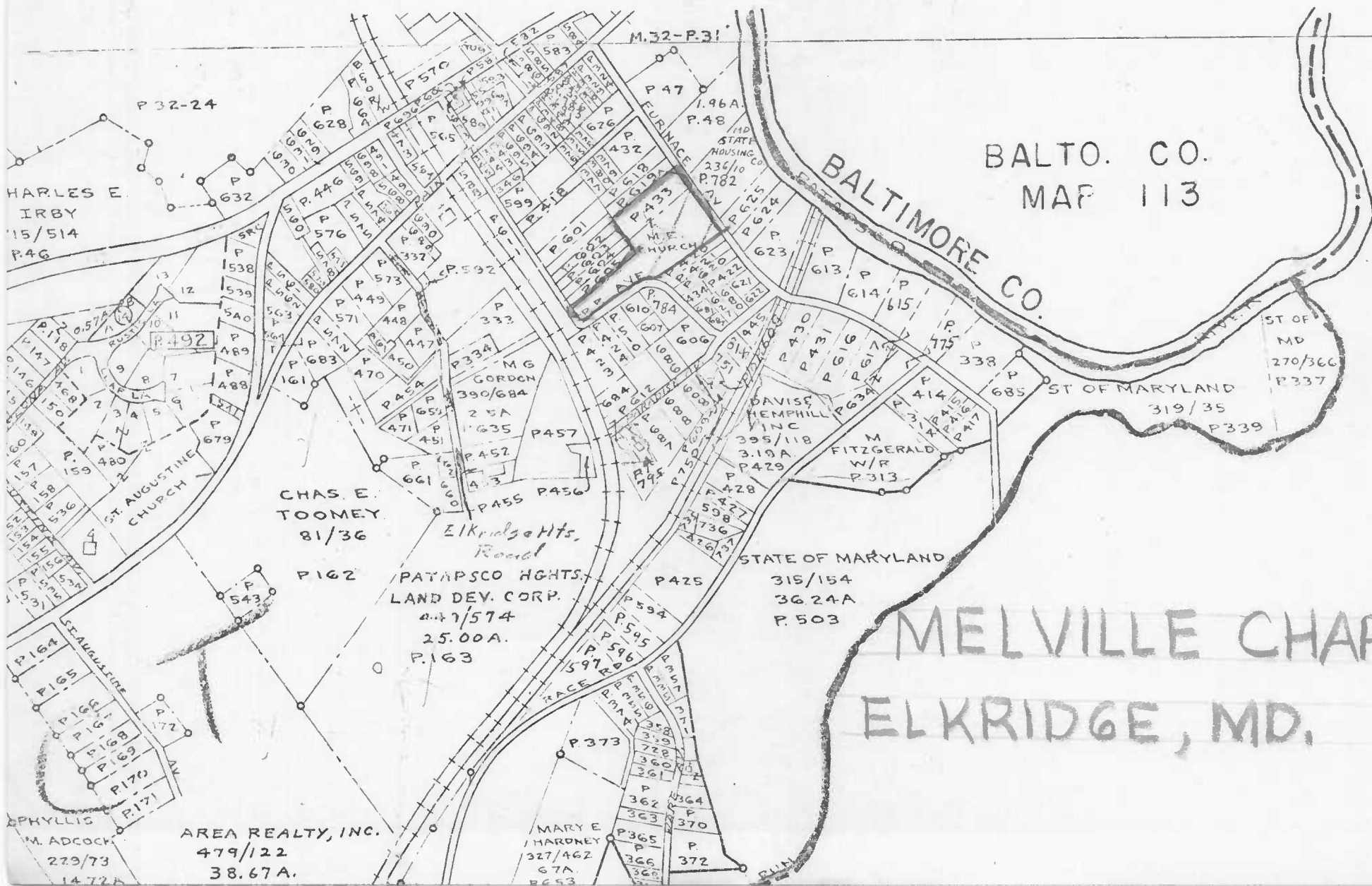
Its great significance, however, lies in its important role in the development of the church in America and its connection with Asbury, the first Methodist Bishop of the United States of America.

Melville M.E. Church
(Melville Chapel)

TRIADELPHIA

HO-383





BALTO. CO.
MAP 113

BALTIMORE CO.

ST OF
MD
270/366
P 337

319/35

P 339

ST OF MARYLAND

M
FITZGERALD
W/R
P 313

STATE OF MARYLAND
315/154
36 24A
P. 503

MELVILLE CHAPEL
ELKRIDGE, MD.

HO-383

CHAS. E.
TOOMEY
81/36

P 162

PATAPSCO HGHTS.
LAND DEV. CORP.
447/574
25.00A.
P. 163

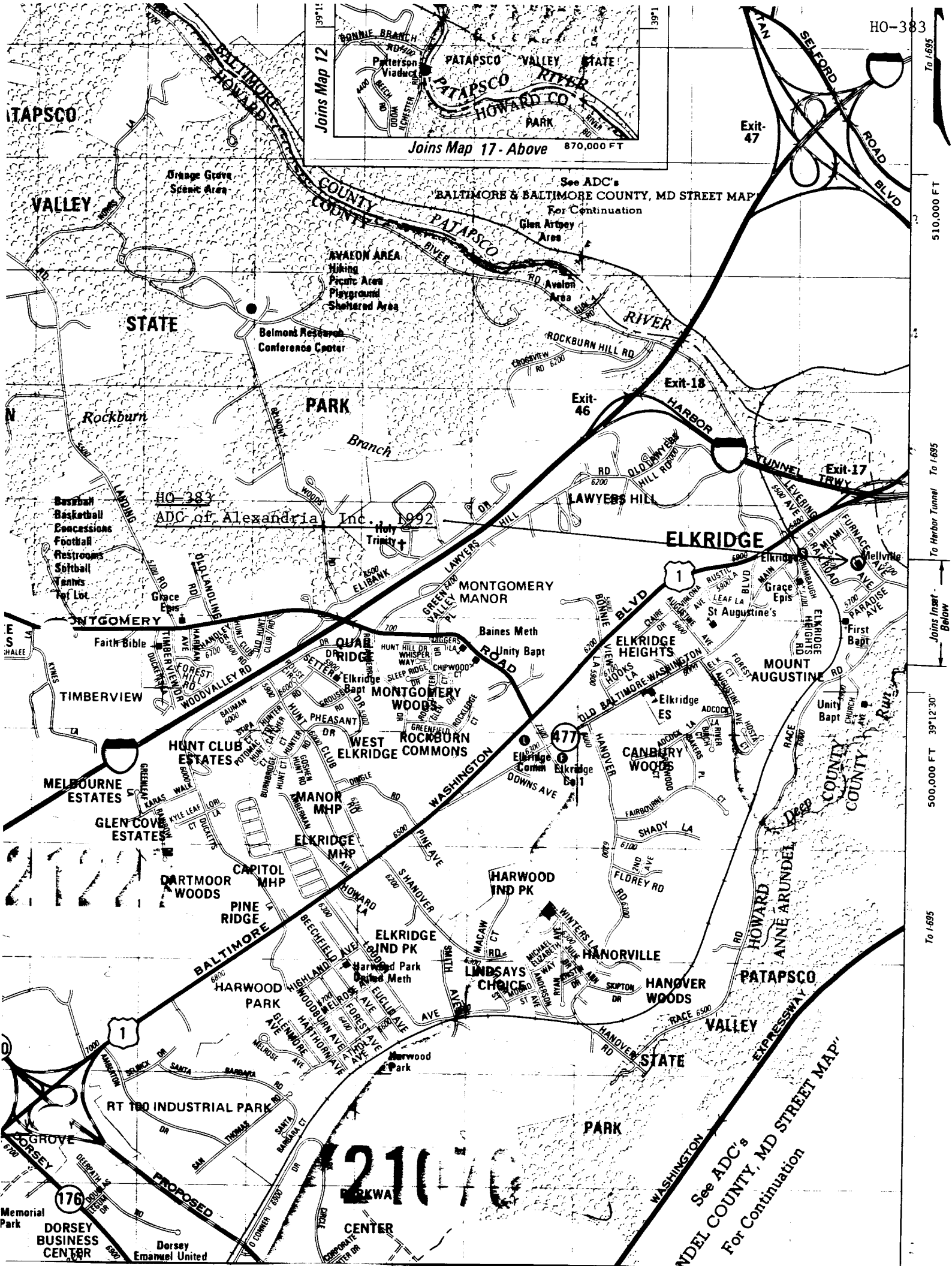
Elkridge Hts.
Road

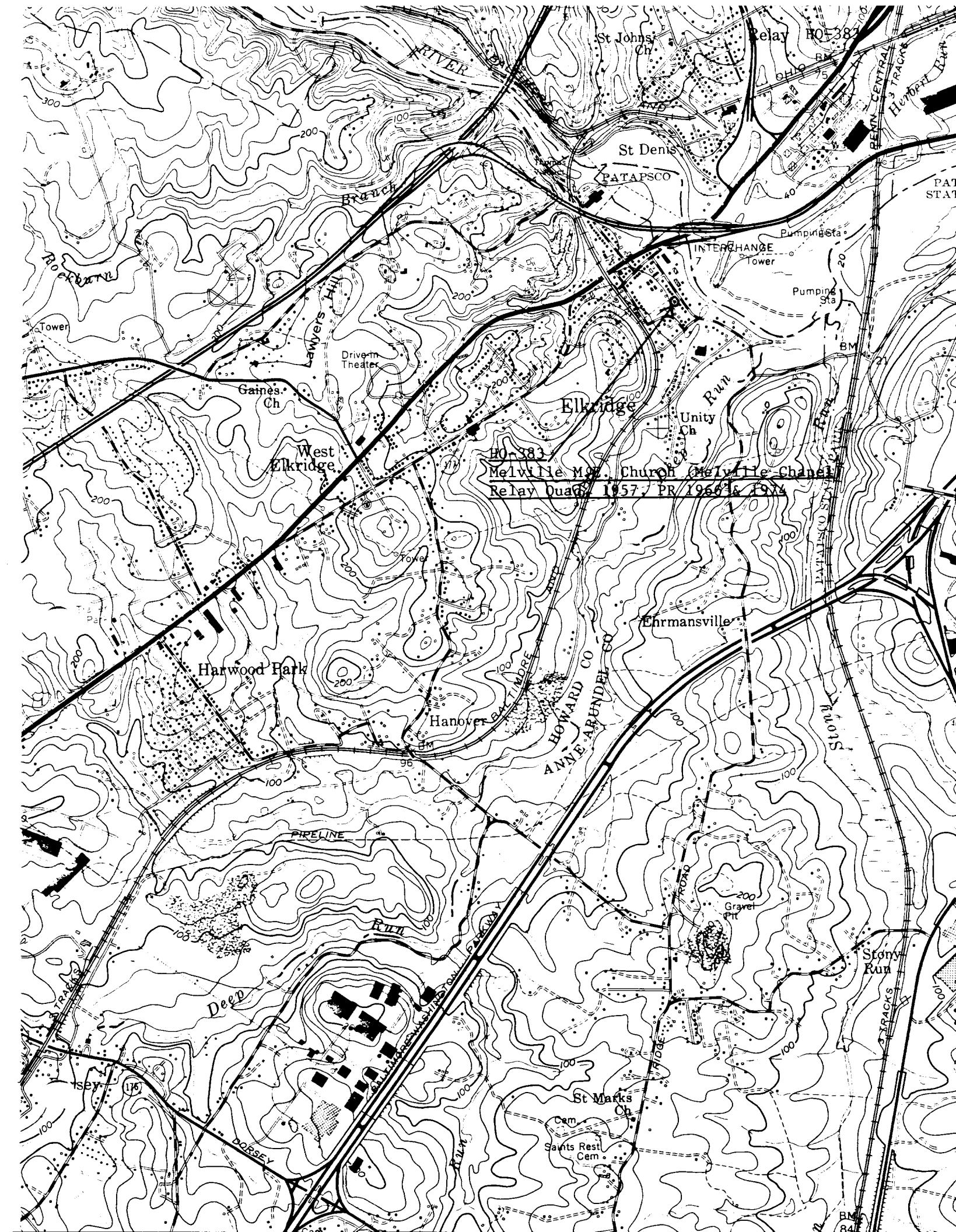
AREA REALTY, INC.
479/122
38.67A.

MARY E.
HARNEY
327/462
67A.
P. 553

HARLES E.
IRBY
15/514
P. 46

APHYLIS
M. ADCOCK
223/73
14.72A







HO-383 DIST 1
MELVILLE CHAPEL

PLANTING CONSULTANT
HISTORICAL SITE SURVEY

OCT 76